



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday 5th April 2026

St Joseph's – Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St Matthew's
Catholic Parishes, Kilmarnock

Parish Priest: Father Stephen G. McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Father Kevin J. A. Rennie (kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk)

Pastoral Assistants: Sisters Mary Rose Confidence, Mary Mabel and Marilyn Juliet (ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: Mariella Hoekstra Berry (rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk)

Items for the newsletter to the Parish Secretary (by 10 am Thursday please): rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

Parishes of the R C Diocese of Galloway (www.rcdg.org.uk). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 5th – 12th APRIL 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 4th			
8.30 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass of Easter Sunday	Sr Anne Smyth (RIP) / Murdoch McGuire (Ann)
Sunday 5th			
8.00 am	Kay Park	Ecumenical Service (near Burns Memorial)	
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish
Monday 6th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by Confessions (until 10.45 am)	Mary McGowne (Ann)
Mass will not be celebrated in St Matthew's today			
Tuesday 7th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Anna Kerr (Ann)
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass followed by Adoration (until 11 am)	Margaret Simpson (RIP)
There will be no Confessions in OLMC today			
Wednesday 8th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Gerard P Pereira (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Mass will not be celebrated in St Matthew's today			
Thursday 9th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Sr Imelda James (Ann)
Friday 10th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Fr Martin Chambers (Ann)
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Fr Martin Chambers (Ann)
Saturday 11th			
5.30 pm – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	The Sacrament of Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Hugh Gallacher (RIP)
Sunday 12th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	For the Parish
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mary McGurk (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Ann Marie Lynch (RIP)
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	St Paul's, Hurlford	Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions and Confessions with Mass at 4 pm	

St Joseph's is open for prayer Monday to Friday from 9.30 am until 4 pm. Enter through the small side door.

Facebook – X – Instagram – @rckilmarnock

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

REGINA COELI (Queen of Heaven) – A PRAYER FOR EASTERTIDE

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
has risen as he said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who have been pleased to gladden the world
by the Resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant, we pray,

that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may receive the joys of everlasting life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GENERAL NOTICES

HAPPY EASTER: For some, the word 'holy' has a sense of being set apart or separated. Does this mean that a holy God is completely unaffected by the world? Not for the God of Jesus Christ – because the danger of such an understanding would be that Christians should only concentrate on spiritual things to the exclusion of getting their hands dirty among the messiness of the world.

The narrative of Holy Week is not quiet and peaceful: there is nothing calm or 'mindful' about the excitement and unrest of Palm Sunday, through to the cruelty of the passion and death of Jesus on a cross, towards the cosmic events surrounding the Resurrection to life of the Lord.

Sharing God's purpose and character of love and justice is what sets Christians apart, what it means to be holy. The holiness of God is his presence in the pain, sin and uncertainty of this world. This is the world in which those who follow Jesus really live, and in which they are invited to engage in the work of recovery, repair and reconciliation. The way of the Cross emphasises that love alone has the inexhaustible power to conquer the darkness and uncertainty of life. Christians are called to believe that change can happen, not through the exercise of power and violence, but through the way of the Cross.

Christ has truly risen, alleluia! And so have we in him, alleluia! Happy Easter!

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: During this Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Bishop Frank Dougan is celebrating Votive Masses of the Holy Spirit in different parishes and schools of the diocese.

On Thursday 23rd April, the Bishop will celebrate a Mass of the Holy Spirit in St Joseph's at 6 pm. Everyone from the Kilmarnock parishes (and beyond) is encouraged to make an effort to participate in this most important diocesan gathering as we ask the Holy Spirit to prepare each of us for the mission of our parish communities in the years ahead.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit; grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in your consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. St Ninian, pray for us.

PARISH CENSUS: A number of years have passed since the St Joseph's parish census was taken, and it is necessary to update it. This also provides an opportunity to take a census of all three parishes. The information gathered helps the priests better serve the people and is stored in accordance with the diocesan GDPR notice available on www.rcdg.org.uk. You may complete the census online by scanning the QR code here, or return the paper census to the stall or the sacristy.



SPECIAL COLLECTION: A special collection will be taken next weekend for the Building Fund in all three parishes. **Please use the special collection envelope from the envelope set to ensure gift aid can be reclaimed on your donation.**

Note for St Matthew's and OLMC: The Building Fund will be taken nine times per year, and replaces the former regular weekly second collection. You are invited to contribute the monthly equivalent of your former second collection donations to this Building Fund all of which will benefit the parishes alone.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATIONS: On Sunday 12th April, Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrations will begin at 2 pm in St Paul's Church, Hurlford. Mass will be celebrated at 4 pm. Tea/Coffee will be available in the hall following Mass. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to attend.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE: Some months ago, Fr Stephen had indicated that efforts were being made to arrange a parish pilgrimage to the Royal Scots College Seminary, Salamanca, Spain, and surrounding cities of Avila, Segovia and Valladolid, at the beginning of October 2026. As a result of restricted dates,

inconvenient flight times and, most of all, the uncertainty of travel (especially with a large group of people) in a troubled world at this time, a decision has been made not to go ahead just now. We will look at possibilities for a pilgrimage like this in the future. Sorry for any disappointment caused.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (PFC) UPDATE: Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin met with the PPC and PFC of St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes to discuss the structure of these committees moving forward.

With a view to forming one PPC and PFC with representation from all three parishes, the following was agreed:

- The former PPCs will choose six members to represent St Matthew's and six members to represent Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The St Joseph's PPC membership remains as it is at present.
- The parish priest will have the discretion to add another two people to each group for St Matthew's and OLMC.
- In April 2026, each of the three PPCs will meet individually.
- In June 2026, there will be a joint meeting of the PPCs from all three parishes.
- In September 2026, the three PPCs will meet individually.
- In November 2026, there will be a joint meeting of the PPCs from all three parishes.
- From January 2027, there will be one PPC for Kilmarnock.
- Regarding the Finance and Fabric Committee, up to five members from the former PFC have to be selected by the previous membership. Building and financial experience are necessary. The PFC will meet as a joint group for the three parishes from June 2026.

COLLECTION ENVELOPE BOXES: These arrived late and are now available for those from St Matthew's and OLMC whose special collection envelopes were wrapped in an elastic band. Please collect the boxes at Mass this weekend.



If you currently visit someone who is housebound (either as an Extraordinary Minister or a family member), or are housebound yourself please scan the QR code or pick up a form from the porch and complete it with the details of the person(s) you visit, or with your own details.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting of St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Monday 20th April at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's church hall. There will be a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00 – 6.25 pm. If parishioners have any items they would like to be considered for discussion at the PPC, please email rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by 13th April. (Please indicate that your suggestion is for St Joseph's PPC.)

COMMUNITY CAFÉ BREAK: The Community Café will take a break during the school Easter holidays and will be closed on 7th and 14th April. It will resume on Tuesday 21st April from 11 am – 1 pm.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Pastoral Council will take place on 21st April at 7 pm in the Norbert Room. There will be a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 – 6.55 pm for the PPC members who can take part. This is not an open meeting as it was before, but a meeting of the members chosen by the former PPC from among their own number. If parishioners have any items they would like to be considered for discussion at the PPC, please email rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by 13th April. (Please indicate that your suggestion is for Our Lady of Mount Carmel PPC.)

U.R. WELCOME CLUB: Come along to an "Afternoon at the Cinema" on Wednesday 8th April from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. Then, "Eyes down for Bingo" on Wednesday 22 April from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. Takes place in the Norbert Room of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. All seniors, friends and neighbours are welcome to come along and join in the fun.

SSVP AFTERNOON TEA: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Saint Vincent de Paul Conference will be hosting afternoon tea between 1 pm and 3 pm on 18th April and parishioners from all three parishes are welcome to attend. There is no charge and sign up forms will be left in the Norbert Room at Our Lady of

Mount Carmel. (Alternatively sign up by emailing olmc_ssvp@icloud.com.)

MISSING COLLECTION ENVELOPE FOR EASTER SUNDAY: Apologies for the missing collection envelope for Easter Sunday – it would usually have been the final envelope in the previous year's box. Please use the new envelopes from next Sunday for the first and the special Building Fund collection.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting of St Matthew's Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Thursday 16th April at 7 pm in St Matthew's church hall. There will be a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 – 6.55 pm for the PPC members who can take part. This is not an open meeting as it was before, but a meeting of the members chosen by the former PPC from among their own number. If parishioners have any items they would like to be considered for discussion at the PPC, please email rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by 13th April. (Please indicate that your suggestion is for St Matthew's PPC.)

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SSVP & FOODBANK PROVISION: We are extremely grateful to the Society of St Vincent de Paul who run foodbanks in St Joseph's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as well as the volunteers who help to run the foodbank in St Matthew's.

The St Matthew's foodbank has had to review how they help those in need of their service. Donations of food are requested and they can be brought to church and left in the community room. The contents requested for a food bag are:

- Can of soup
- Canned meal, e.g. beef stew, chilli con carne, curry
- Pasta or rice (only small bags)
- Tinned fruit / vegetables / beans
- Cartons of long-life milk (UHT)
- Tin of tuna
- Packet of biscuits
- Toilet roll.

Foodbanks are available through our parishes on the following days and times. All of our foodbanks are provided free of charge.

Day	Start	Finish	Location
Monday	7.30 pm	8.15 pm	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Tuesday	3.30 pm	5.00 pm	St Matthew's
Wednesday	10.30 am	11.30 pm	St Joseph's Hall
Thursday	3.30 pm	5.00 pm	St Matthew's

Supporting our Foodbanks: Donations of food and essentials are always greatly appreciated and help support local individuals and families in need. These can be handed in to any of our churches, the parish house, or directly at any of the Foodbanks. All donations should be non-perishable items.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY: Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin, and the Sisters visit Catholic patients in Crosshouse Hospital typically twice weekly. If you know of anyone in the hospital, please let us know by email (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk) or phone 01563 521832 and they will be visited during our routine visiting. We are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted to hospital and so we rely on receiving the information from family and friends. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk or on 01655 882145. For urgent or emergency assistance from a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

GIFT AID AND DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Some people have been asking for more information about Gift Aid and why collection envelopes are used for cash donations. There follows an explanation.

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish (as part of the registered charity 'RC Diocese of Galloway') to reclaim the basic rate tax you pay as a UK taxpayer.

It means that we can claim 25p of tax for every £1 you donate at no extra cost to you. All you need to do is make a Gift Aid declaration.

You need to have paid or expect to pay enough income or capital gains tax in the tax year your gift was received to cover all the Gift Aid donations you make to the church that year.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for the effort made to refresh the Gift Aid Declaration Forms in St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes. **There has been a fantastic response and the records are now fully up-to-date!**

Having these forms provides the evidence for the parishes (as the registered charity 'RC Diocese of Galloway') to submit a gift aid claim to the Inland Revenue, and to reclaim the 25% tax on donations by standing order and recorded envelope donations during the three years from 9th April 2023 until 5th April 2026. This will be of great benefit to the income of the parishes. The total amounts claimed will be published in due course.

A gift aid claim for St Joseph's will also be submitted for the second part of the last fiscal year.

Why is it so important to use envelopes when donating?

When taxpayers donate to the Church by standing order, the amount of your donation is formally recorded on the parish bank account.

When taxpayers donate cash to the Church, tax can only be reclaimed if evidence is kept of the amount you have given throughout the year. This is calculated by the counters keeping a note of your weekly donation next to your collection envelope number in a register. This forms an anonymised record of the amount each person has given in their envelope. At the end of the year diocesan staff submit the Gift Aid claim to the Inland Revenue with your name, address, and the amount you have donated through the year.

So, if you pay tax, donate using cash, and don't use a numbered envelope, the Church cannot reclaim the tax you have paid under the Gift Aid scheme – it's as simple as that!

Thank you for your generous financial support of the parishes whether by taxable or non-taxable donations. It is greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

EASTER YOUTH GATHERING: Celebrate Easter with Galloway Youth! Are you in P5-S4? Sign up to join Galloway Youth in St Teresa's, Dumfries on Sunday 18th April as they gather to celebrate Easter! They'll have a fantastic selection of games, activities, talks, prayer and Mass – as well as pizza and a BBQ! All completely free of charge. Free transport is available from Kilmarnock, just sign up on their website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.



YOUNG ADULTS' SPRING SOCIAL: To celebrate Easter our Young Adults are planning a spring social on Saturday 25th April at 3.00 pm. The afternoon will include ten pin bowling, laserquest, and a chance to meet other young adults. The venue will be confirmed depending on interest. To register your interest in taking part,

please scan the QR code and we'll be in touch with the details nearer the time.

YOUTH OFFICE 200 CLUB: This provides support for young people who otherwise would struggle to participate in events. Membership is £5 per month, with a monthly draw giving you the chance to win cash prizes. **Pick up a form in the stall to register, or go to their website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.**

ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT: (Register by Easter Sunday to secure your place at the early-bird rate of £140.00) Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel. The retreat is open to all young people currently in P6-S3. The weekend includes a range of times of prayer, Mass, spiritual reflection, different outdoor activities and lots of time to relax and spend time with friends. Subsidies are available for those in need, or for families with more than one child wishing to attend – please contact the Youth Office by emailing: youth@rcdg.org.uk. Go to youth.rcdg.org.uk for more details and to register.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- U.R. Welcome Club – Wednesday 8th April (OLMC)
- Divine Mercy Sunday – Sunday 12th April, 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm (St Paul's, Hurlford)
- Easter Youth Day – Saturday 18th April, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm (St Teresa's, Dumfries)
 - SSVF Afternoon Tea – Saturday 18th April, 1.00 – 3.00 pm (OLMC)
 - U.R. Welcome Club – Wednesday 22nd April (OLMC)
- Parish Pastoral Council Meetings – 16 April at 7 pm (St Matthew's), 20 April at 6.30 pm (St Joseph's), 21 April at 7 pm (OLMC)
 - Diocesan Mass of the Holy Spirit with Bishop Frank – Thursday 23rd April at 6.00 pm (St Joseph's)
- Organ Recital with Hans Uwe Hielscher (Weisbaden, Germany) – Tuesday 19th May at 12.00 noon (St Joseph's)

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers (1st, 2nd, Intercessions)	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Holy Saturday 4 Apr St Joseph's 8.30pm	H Matthews, A Davidson, H Rameckers, E Heron, G Smith	P Dorrian, G Rankin, L Rankin, M Steele, F Donachie – Choir, K McGhee - Choir	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	H Rameckers
Easter Sunday 5 Apr St Matthew's 9.30 am	A Gillion, G Coyle, P Brown	R: A M Gilmour, M Bradley L: S Duff, C Gordon, Matthew	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Easter Sunday 5 Apr St Joseph's 11 am	F McCann, T Murphy, L Hand	F McCann, R Murphy, I Love, E Cunningham, P Chigbo, C Power	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Alan, Theresa	
Easter Sunday 5 Apr OLMC 11.30 am	J McCrossan, C Cox	J Hefron, L Hefron, S Clark	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	-	-	B McDade, G Rannochan	P Brown
Saturday 11 Apr St Joseph's 6pm	E Heron, A Davidson, K McGhee	Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel, C Power, G Rankin, L Rankin	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia				
Sunday 12 Apr St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Musilli, B Gilhooley, J Duff	R: A Gillion, C Brown L: N McKenna, F Stacey, M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 12 Apr St Joseph's 11 am	G McGee, F McCann, An Davidson	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew, M Walker	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	-	tbc	
Sunday 12 Apr OLMC 11.30 am	Charlie Harper, Kathleen Jones	Sister, S Hollywood, M Smith	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	-	John Boyle, Marie Wilkie	

Useful Contacts

	Hall bookings	Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators
St Joseph's	Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)	Margaret McGrath (psc.kilmarnock.stjoseph@rcdg.org.uk)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel		Alice Brown (alice.brown@rcdg.org.uk) Charles Harper (charles.harper@rcdg.org.uk)
St Matthew's	Margaret Merrick (07765 715798)	Marjorie McInnes (marjorie.mcinnis@rcdg.org.uk)
Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page the on-call priest. For regular visiting: <i>Crosshouse Hospital:</i> Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832) <i>Ayr Hospital:</i> Fr Benjamin Mkeri (benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk or 01655 882145)		
St Andrew's Primary: 01563 549549 Mount Carmel Primary: 01563 525897 St Joseph's Academy: 01563 526144		

Parish Office & Presbytery Contact Details:

St Joseph's Presbytery, 15a Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB – Telephone: 01563 521832

Convent Contact Details

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mount Carmel Convent, 14 Kirkton Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2DF
 Telephone: 01563 523822 • Email: ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk

Collections for Sunday 29th March

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £2,238.92. Organ Recital: £343.20. Building Fund: £10. Church Students Fund: £10.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £374.15. SSVP: £143.57.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £415.14. Community Box: £648.25. Ecuador Trust: £13.

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

You can now support our parishes by giving online, just scan the QR code to donate or go to our website and click the link.

St Joseph's



Our Lady of Mount Carmel



St Matthew's



FOLLOW US ONLINE

Please ask your child(ren) to return to you immediately after the Children's Liturgy if you do not wish them to be captured on the live-stream recording.